

Amendment No. 1 to HB0288

Forgety  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 400**

**House Bill No. 288\***

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, there is established a three-year pilot program to be operated by the department of education. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to provide grants to elementary and middle schools to implement character education programs emphasizing leadership.

(b) Schools may apply to the department for a grant to implement such character education programs no later than January 1, 2018. If a school applies for a grant to implement the character education programs, then the school must pay the department a one-time application fee of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500).

(c) The total amount of the grants provided by the department shall not exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in the 2018-2019 school year, two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in the 2019-2020 school year, and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in the 2020-2021 school year.

(d)

(1) In awarding grants, the department must:

(A) Award the grants to as many schools as funding shall allow to participate in the program;

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(B) Give preference first to priority schools, then to schools in LEAs with a fiscal capacity in the lowest fifty percent (50%) of all LEAs, and finally to all other schools that apply to participate; and

(C) Strive to award grants to schools in all three (3) grand divisions of the state equally.

(2) If fewer than fifty (50) schools request grants, the department shall award the grants to all schools that request grants.

(e) The amount of the grant given to each participating school must be calculated by the department and must be in an amount sufficient to pay for the full implementation of the character education programs.

(f)

(1) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, with the assistance of the department of education, shall study the pilot program and shall issue a report to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives on the effectiveness of the pilot program after the second year of the pilot program by no later than December 31, 2020.

(2)

(A) In conducting the study, OREA must:

(i) Evaluate any improvement in the success of the students, in both academics and discipline; and

(ii) Survey teachers, administrators, and parents to determine their opinions as to the success or failure of such character education programs.

(B) OREA must include the results of its evaluation and survey in the report required by subdivision (f)(1).

(3) If OREA, in consultation with the department, finds that the results of the pilot program are promising, OREA may recommend in its report that the pilot program should be continued and expanded.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.